

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02377 150437Z

45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /077 W
----- 027723

R 141905Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3375

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2377

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: COHEP REFUSES TO JOIN ADVISORY COUNCIL

REF.: TEGUCIGALPA 2205 (DTG 042125Z MAY 76)

1. AS EXPECTED THE HONDURAN COUNCIL OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (COHEP) HAS DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL. COHEP ISSUED A STATEMENT ON MAY 7, INDICATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION COHEP'S VIEWS AS TO HOW THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE FORMED. THE STATEMENT FURTHER SAID THAT THE COUNCIL

WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS UNTIL 1979, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED. FURTHER, THE STATEMENT OBSERVED THAT, WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES, THE COUNCIL WOULD BE UNABLE TO DRAW UP AN ADEQUATE ELECTORAL STATUTE. COHEP ALSO VIEWS THE COUNCIL AS BECOMING A FORUM FOR CLASS CONFLICT.

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02377 150437Z

2. BEGIN COMMENT: COHEP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY JOIN THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES IN CONTINUING TO CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT AND PRESS FOR A RAPID RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY. SUCH CRITICISM WILL INCLUDE THE COUNCIL SHOULD IT PROVE SSUPPORTIVE OF GOVERNMENT INTERESTS. END COMMENT.
SANCHEZ

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